



The Doctoral College places fusion at the core of our activity so that our postgraduate research students (PGRs) are themselves motivated to inspire learning, advance knowledge and enrich society. Working in an education environment, we are advocates of lifelong learning and support our colleagues in furthering their own education. This enables the provision of expert academic, administrative and pastoral guidance to the research degree community.

Doctoral College team

How do we lead by example?

We actively engage with furthering our own education and recently across the team:

- 1 colleague has completed their PhD
- 2 colleagues are currently undertaking PhDs
- 1 colleague has just been awarded a Master's degree
- 1 colleague has just graduated with a PG Cert Education Practice
- 3 colleagues have been recognised as Fellows of the HEA – 2 at Senior level
- 1 colleague has just qualified as a Microsoft Specialist.

Case Study: Education

“The PG Cert Education Practice supported my professional development, while pro-actively aligning my profession with BU2025 ultimately enhancing the PGR experience through developments to the RDP. This has impacted my professional practice significantly by increasing the confidence in my ability to bring fresh ideas to the RDP, underpinned by theory.”

Natalie Stewart (Research Skills & Development Officer, DC)

“Engagement with my own PhD means that I can truly empathise with PGRs regarding the way in which one minute everything can seem really positive, and my research seems to be going really well, and the next, I can be questioning whether I really have a thesis at all! This has all added valuable insights to the experience I've gained over the years of supporting PGRs through the process.”

Jan Lewis (Postgraduate Research Administrator, DC | FMC)

Research degree community

How do we support education of our PGRs?

The education of PGRs is underpinned by the Code of Practice for Research Degrees which provides a framework for the postgraduate research learning environment at BU.

In addition, we support the education of our PGRs by:

- Contributing to BU2025 actions which relate to PGR teaching and learning
- Introducing ways of supporting PGRs in fusing their research, for example the new Integrated Thesis
- Enriching the learning experience through academic events, such as the Annual PGR Conference
- Facilitating a cutting-edge Researcher Development Programme which offers over 60 individual workshops, online modules, video resources and interactive webinar series specifically for PGRs
- Offering a personalised approach to research, professional and personal development so PGRs can meet their short- and long-term development needs whilst at BU
- Leading our supervisors in their own continued supervisory development via the Supervisory Development Programme
- Mentoring new colleagues in areas of education practice
- Focussing on improving the mental health and wellbeing of our PGRs to develop their resilience to support successful completion
- Responding to students feedback at institutional and faculty level.